



CONSTELLATION

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Corps, other agencies help volunteers plant Barren Island

*Story by Chanel S. Weaver
Photos by Tex Jobe and
Susanne Bledsoe*

Barren Island may be a remote place in the Chesapeake Bay off the coast of Dorchester County, but last month it attracted more than a hundred people.

During the week of June 4-9, the National Aquarium in Baltimore—in partnership with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and Friends of Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge—led citizen volunteers in the planting of 100,000 marsh plants on Barren Island.

On June 8, the Aquarium hosted a demonstration of the project for the media and invited officials.

Being involved with the restoration of Barren Island presented a two-fold advantage for the Corps of Engineers. In addition to planting the smooth cord grass and salt meadow hay, the Corps used Barren Island as a site to place dredged material from the Honga River.

The Corps' contractor placed 138,392 cubic yards



Congressman Wayne T. Gilchrest (l) and Bob Blama, Operations Division, plant seedlings at Barren Island.

of dredged material behind geotextile tubes positioned at Barren Island. This effort laid and shaped the foundation for the tidal marsh planting.

"The Barren Island Tidal Wetland Restoration project demonstrates that dredged material can be put to advantageous environmental use," said Baltimore District Engineer Col. Charles J. Fiala, Jr. "We've worked closely with our project partners to make this wetland planting a success."

Though the ground on Barren Island was quite muddy, the muck did not deter the dozens of people

who flocked there for Demonstration Day.

"I brought about 40 people on Monday and 10 people today," said John Wolflin, field supervisor for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The volunteers were ferried from a boat ramp on Hooper's Island to Barren Island through the channel that the Corps of Engineers had recently dredged.

Once they arrived, the volunteers were not afraid of getting their hands dirty. The event, which took place from 9 a.m. to noon, was in-

(Continued on p. 8 & 9)



U.S. Army Corps
of Engineers
Baltimore District

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Commander's Comment

Baltimore Harbor projects

by Col. Charles J. Fiala, Jr.
Commander & District Engineer

If you're like me, at least one relative, friend or neighbor asked you about flood control efforts this spring. While the spring flooding in the Midwest, and most recently in Houston, didn't involve Baltimore District, the questions reinforce a fact that does: to people outside the organization, you represent the Corps of Engineers. You are the Corps. When our projects are in the news, you may be asked about them.

The geographic size and technical diversity of Baltimore District make it difficult for the whole team to stay current with all of our projects. It's not necessary to know everything that is happening in the District, but we should all be generally familiar with certain large and important projects since they will continue to be in the news.

Because the Port of Baltimore has singular economic importance to our region, we should all be aware of a series of navigation projects we are doing for the port.

Those projects are:
Brewerton Channel Eastern

Extension, the Tolchester Channel S-Turn Straightening, and the Baltimore Harbor Anchorages and Channels.

All three are dredging projects. They are sponsored by the Maryland Port Administration, an arm of the Maryland Department of Transportation. All three meet stringent environmental requirements and will help to hold down the costs of shipping.

The **Brewerton** project, currently under way, will widen an east-west channel across the bay from 450 feet to 600 feet, eliminating some of the delays in the harbor channel system.

Straightening the **Tolchester** channel, which currently follows an S-shaped pattern, will allow ships to navigate through the area more quickly and safely. The chance of a ship running aground and causing severe environmental damage to the Chesapeake Bay would be reduced.

Both of these projects will contribute clean dredged material to the **Poplar Island** Environmental Restoration project, helping to restore it to its 1847 pre-erosion footprint, while creating 1,140 acres of wildlife habitat

and intertidal wetlands.

The **Baltimore Harbor Anchorages and Channels** project will upgrade existing anchorages and branch channels within the harbor itself. The purpose is to make them of sufficient depth, length and width to accommodate the vessels that now use them. This project will reduce delays, increase efficiency and add to the safety of port operations.

These are a few examples of newsworthy District projects. Other "hot topics" include our D.C. Public Schools program and the cleanup work at the Spring Valley site.

I encourage all of you to read the District's website and to recheck it regularly. A lot of information on these and other projects has been added recently. I also want you to peruse this newsletter every month. That way, if anyone asks you about one of our projects, you will be able to provide the facts.

All of us should be able to talk to people about the work we do. Baltimore District makes great contributions to this region and its economy, and we should be proud of that.

Essayons.

Corps hosts Chesapeake Bay workshop

by Marshall Hudson
Public Affairs Office

The conference “Chesapeake Bay — 2001, Integrating Environmental and Facility Management to Create Sustainable Facilities,” a part of the Corps’ continuing effort to provide leadership in environmental stewardship, habitat protection and ecosystem restoration, was held on June 4 and 5.

Sponsored by Baltimore District at the Patuxent Wildlife Refuge Conference Center in Laurel, Md., it provided federal facility managers and others whose actions impact the watershed of the bay with an overview of practical environmental management tools.

“The Corps has a long history of environmental management in the bay watershed,” said Lt. Col. Gregory E. Stinner, deputy district engineer for military programs. “We place environmental values on an equal footing with economic and engineering concerns. We’re here to share information and ideas on how to build, renovate and adapt facilities in an environmentally compatible manner.”

New legislative and voluntary agreements are requiring federal facilities to adopt more innovative and sustainable site man-



The Patuxent Wildlife Refuge Conference Center in Laurel, Md., was the setting for Baltimore District’s Chesapeake Bay watershed workshop.

agement practices.

The workshop was intended to help managers better integrate environmental considerations into site operations, construction and facility management.

Topics included efforts to improve watershed management, “greening” government initiatives and executive orders, and improvement of stormwater management using low-impact development techniques.

In his opening remarks, moderator Robert Pace, a senior technical advisor from Planning Division, cited the definition of “sustainability” as “development which meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

“Our hope is that attendees will expand their level of knowl-

edge and understanding of sustainability, so they will be able to plan, program and execute a meaningful environmental program,” he said.

Each day ended with a roundtable discussion to allow attendees to ask specific questions about laws, regulations, agreements and initiatives, or about how to apply environmentally friendly initiatives at their home organizations.

The conference was the second in a series of workshops hosted by Baltimore for members of the bay community.

Approximately 75 people, representing the Army, Navy, the Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and many other federal, state and private organizations attended.

Smoking: good news, bad news

The good news: When you quit smoking, you will feel better fast. Doctors at Brigham and Women’s Hospital in Boston say blood vessels and coronary tissue respond almost immediately to quitting, even in people who have smoked for

many years. The risk of suddenly dying begins to drop within weeks; five years after quitting it’s nearly the same as that of someone who has never smoked.

The bad news: Quitting can eventually restore the lungs to their original form, but the cells

deep within their folds are not as healthy.

The National Cancer Institute reports that the risk for lung cancer is higher even 30 years after quitting. But it is far lower than if a person had continued to smoke.

Blob's Park, setting for 11th annual District picnic

Despite the early morning torrential rain, Baltimore District employees converged on Blob's Park in Jessup, Md., June 15 to participate in the annual Organization Day picnic.

Later, the weather cooperated to allow employees, friends, family and retirees to relax, play softball and volleyball, or groove on the dance floor while a disc jockey mixed a variety of beats.

Children were not excluded from the fun. The Moon Bounce was a favorite activity, allowing

dozens of kids to expend their extra energy on the huge balloons.

There were plenty of other activities, including the Corps' safety squirrel, who posed for pictures and allowed his tail to be pulled.

All the "fixin's" were there. The menu ranged from pit beef and barbecue chicken to homemade desserts and cotton candy.

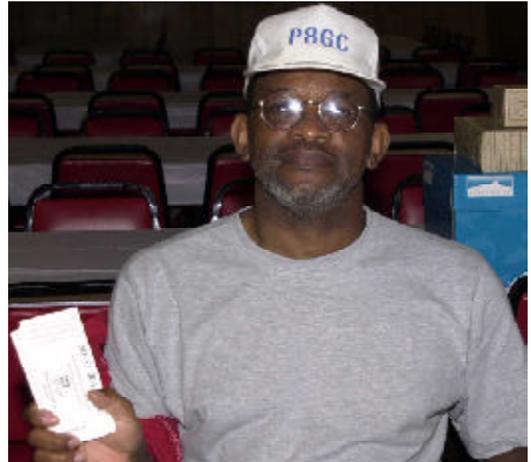
This year, to help celebrate the 226th anniversary of the Corps, USACE historian Paul Walker

presented the Corps history through slides and narrative. Mary Bodgan, Human Resources, and Lt. Col. Scott Flanigan, executive office, were the trivia history contest winners.

Marie Lasek, Operations Division, was in charge of this year's picnic, but she said she had many helpers from her division and the entire District.

The day was also special for Jennifer Boemmel, daughter of Lisa Biehl, Operations, who won \$230.50 in the 50/50 raffle.





Independence Day— more than another day off

by Chanel S. Weaver
Public Affairs Office

Every 4th of July, Americans are bombarded with picnics, barbecues, fireworks displays and parades. When all of these events are calling for one's attention, it's quite easy to lose the real meaning of the holiday.

And federal employees have an even greater chance of devaluing the holiday. Because all federal employees have Independence Day off, in many cases, the only liberty they are celebrating is freedom from the job.

But Independence Day is more than picnics, fireworks, parades and "another day off." The average person knows that the holiday commemorates the signing of the Declaration of Independence by the Second Continental Congress on July 4, 1776, 225 years ago. However, there are so many other facts that are often not included in the tale of America's birthday.

The following list contains little-known facts about Independence Day:

- The U. S. Army Corps of Engineers is older than the Declaration of Independence! The Corps history can be traced back to June 16, 1775, when the Continental Congress organized an army with a chief engineer, Col. Richard Gridley, and two assistants. The Declaration of Independence was signed 384 days later, July 4, 1776.

- Of the 13 colonies, nine voted in favor of the Declaration. Two, Pennsylvania and South Carolina,

voted against the Declaration; Delaware was undecided, and New York abstained from voting. The Declaration was signed in the afternoon, around 2 p.m.

- The 4th of July was not declared a legal holiday until 1941, 165 years after the Declaration was signed.

- When the Declaration of Independence was signed, John Adams, the second president of the United States, wrote a letter to his wife saying that July 4 should be "solemnized with pomp and parade, with shows, games, sports, guns, bells, bonfires, and illuminations..." If he were alive today, he would see how Independence Day has been celebrated this way over the years.

- **July 4, 1779**—Independence Day fell on a Sunday and celebrations took place the following day, initiating the tradition of celebrating the holiday on Monday.

- **July 4, 1815**—The cornerstone of Baltimore's Washington Monument in Mount Vernon was laid.

- **July 4, 1828**—Charles Carroll, a delegate from Frederick County, Md., and last surviving signer of the Declaration of Independence, participated in a Baltimore celebration and assisted in the laying of the first stone of the B&O railroad.

- **July 4, 1976**—The nation's 200th birthday occurred. Baltimore celebrated by hosting a reenactment of the Revolutionary



War and allowing the citizens to feast on a 69,000 pound birthday cake.

- The three colors of the U. S. flag symbolize three distinct values: red, victory; white, purity; and blue, loyalty. These values aren't too different from the Army's values of loyalty, duty, respect, selfless service, honor, integrity and personal courage.

- Five signers of the Declaration of Independence were captured by the British as traitors, and tortured before they died. Other signers had their homes ransacked and burned.

So, this Wednesday, when the grill is going, the fireworks are blasting, and the parade is jamming, take a few minutes to remember the actual meaning of July 4. For Independence Day is no ordinary holiday.

His dad taught him all of his manners

by Chanel S. Weaver
Public Affairs Office

Mel M. Tesema would certainly agree that a parent is a child's first role model.

"From the time I was a kid, I saw how my father treated people and got along with other people," said Tesema. "That is why I try to be like him."

Tesema was selected as July's courteous employee of the month. As the only mechanical engineer at Washington Aqueduct, Tesema stays very busy; yet he always finds time to be courteous.

Tesema says that it is not hard for him to be courteous since he is part of a thriving team environment in Washington Aqueduct. He believes it is every-

one's responsibility to respect other people.

"I believe that you should listen and be courteous to all people," said Tesema. "Even if you don't agree with the person, you have to respect their ideas."

Mel Tesema came to the Corps in January 2000, after serving as a mechanical engineer for Black and Veatch Corporation in Kansas City, Mo. He attended undergraduate school in his native country of Ethiopia and received his civil engineering master's degree at Howard University in Washington, D.C.



Mel M. Tesema

Though Tesema has only been with the Corps for a brief period, he is making a powerful impact on those around him.

"We have all come to depend on him," said Thomas Jacobus, chief of Washington Aqueduct. "This recognition is well-deserved."

Tesema and his wife, Selome, are very excited because their first son will be born at the end of

August. Although Tesema "kind of wanted a girl," he says his top priority will be taking care of his son.

His hobbies

include viewing movies, reading and doing a whole lot of traveling, something he takes advantage of whenever he can.

"I travel back home to visit my mom in Ethiopia occasionally," said Tesema. "I also enjoy visiting my sister in California."

In the future, Tesema hopes to gain more experience in the engineering field.

Tesema also wants to continue viewing life positively and helping others in whatever way he can.

Tesema's achievement as July's courteous employee shows that he really paid attention to those lessons in etiquette that he learned from his dad.

Area-wide sampling begins in the Spring Valley neighborhood

On May 31, the Corps began collecting soil samples from residential properties in the Spring Valley neighborhood of Washington, D.C., as part of a comprehensive effort to identify any areas that might contain elevated levels of arsenic.

"It's our goal over the next eight months to sample approximately 1,200 residential properties and 400 non-residential lots," said Michael Rogers, Spring

Valley project manager.

In addition to testing for arsenic, some locations will be sampled for a specific list of potential contaminants that may have been used during World War I.

"During these first several weeks of sampling, our contractor's two- and four-person teams will focus on specific residences where the property owners have requested priority sampling, as well as those properties within

an area defined as the central testing area," said Rogers. "This is where we believe from historical records most of the field-testing was performed during the operation of the American University Experiment Station from 1917 to 1919."

To help track the sampling actions, the team has established a comprehensive database designed to track everything from a property owner's input on where to sample on the property

to tracking when test results should be sent to residents.

"Throughout this sampling, communication with the community will remain an important part of our effort," said Rogers. "We will continue to update residents on a regular basis through phone calls, letters, meetings, community newsletter, the project's web site and the Restoration Advisory Board."

Volunteers, others plant seedlings at Barren Island

(continued from cover)

tended to demonstrate the planting of an 11-acre salt marsh using *Spartina alterniflora* (smooth cord grass) and salt meadow hay.

"Inviting the public to participate in a hands-on restoration activity further connects people to the Chesapeake Bay, making a better world for both," said Glenn Page, director of conservation at the Aquarium.

And the public accepted the invitation to serve the environment.

"We've planted 75,000 plants out of a total of 100,000 plants," said Bob Blama, the Corps' project manager for the Honga River and Tar Bay federal navigation project, as he dug holes for the plants.

"At this rate, we really need to slow down to leave some plants for the volunteers who are coming tomorrow," added John Gill, a refuge manager for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Wolflin acknowledged that it was important for the community to play an active role in improving the environment.

"The people who participate

receive a higher level of understanding than those who just learn about the environment sitting in a classroom," he said. "People need a hands-on activity."

Barren Island has experienced quite a troubled past. The island has been suffering from erosion for a long time at an alarming rate.

"The rate of erosion is 10 to 15 feet per year along two miles of shoreline," said Gill.

When steady erosion occurs on islands such as this one, wetlands and grass habitats are in danger of being destroyed. These various wetlands and grass habitats are very valuable because they provide homes for marine animals and also serve as a buffer against the forces of nature, dampening the destructive effects of wind, waves and floods.

Bill Hogarth, of NOAA Fisheries, realizes the importance of restoring island habitats. "We manage fisheries and restore habitats throughout the country," said Hogarth. "Without these habitats, we would have no fish to manage."

All of the other partners in the Barren Island Restoration project

played important roles as well. The National Aquarium organized the volunteer planting. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service owns the land. The Friends of Blackwater provided most of the volunteers and will be responsible for future maintenance of the site, and NOAA provided technical assistance and monitoring.

The Chesapeake Bay Trust, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and FishAmerica Foundation, provided additional financial support.

"This project shows that people can work together," said Congressman Wayne Gilchrest. "When we take our suits off, we are all just people."

Janice King and Mary Nixon, two other workers from the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, agreed that people are just people. They traded their business suits for



Volunteers arrive at Barren Island on one of the Baltimore District's boats employed as transport for the wetlands planting project.



A.J. Corts, Operations, moves a few of the 100,000 plants into place.



Volunteers plant smooth cord grass in dredged material at Barren Island.

some comfortable clothes and got on their hands and knees to dig, fertilize and plant. The two ladies laughed as their feet kept getting stuck in the mud.

“The hardest thing to do is stay on top of the mud,” said Nixon.

Despite the mud’s quicks and effect and a little summer heat, the volunteers enjoyed the work.

“We’ve never been to a refuge site, and we’re enjoying an opportunity to get away from the office,” said King.

Demonstration Day included an announcement by NOAA and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation that introduced a new Chesapeake Bay community-based restoration partnership which will provide more than \$400,000 for efforts to restore critical wetlands and streams.

“Learning that we’ll be receiving additional funds to continue our restoration work is a perfect finale for an already wonderful week’s worth of work,” said Page.

Stanley Snarski, chief of the Operations Technical Support Branch for Baltimore District, also agrees that the Barren Island project was very successful.

“We’re looking at a win-win project,” said Snarski. “It’s

gratifying to see the end result.”

Gilchrest added that this project was long overdue. “We’ve fragmented nature enough. It’s time to heal the wounds the human species has perpetuated.”

Instead of passing on the problems of Barren Island to the next generation, the citizens have tackled the problems themselves.

At the end of the week, John Gill noted that Barren Island would forever remain sketched in the minds of the volunteers.

“When they go home, Barren Island goes with them,” said Gill.



An Aquarium employee uses a spacing device to prepare the area for planting.



Glenn Page, Aquarium conservation director, demonstrates how to use the dibble bar and other equipment.



Two volunteers bend to the task.



Maj. Lewis Toms carries boxes of plants to the site.

Engineering, dredging saving Poplar Island

Reversing erosion, restoring habitat in the Chesapeake

by Marshall Hudson
Public Affairs Office

Using silt and sand that were once considered undesired by-products of dredging, the Corps, in partnership with other state and federal agencies, is restoring Poplar Island, Md., to its former state as a refuge for wildlife.

The goal of the beneficial-use project, located in the middle of the Chesapeake Bay off Talbot County, is to restore the island to its approximate size in 1847.

By 1999, erosion had reduced what had once been Poplar Island to five remnant islands covering less than three square acres. If no action had been taken, it would have completely disappeared.

“Saving this island is a really special project. It’s an interesting engineering challenge, because of the complexities involved in designing and building realistic working wetlands,” said Scott Johnson, project manager.

“It also means a lot to all of us to be part of something that helps keep the port economically viable while doing so much good for the environment.”



Above, wildlife is already returning to the island. Right, workers extend the perimeter dike as part of the phase two expansion of the eastern side of Poplar Island.



When completed, the island will comprise 1,140 acres, half upland habitat and half wetlands. The uplands will support small mammals like foxes, squirrels and possibly deer, while the wetlands will be home to vegetation, small fish and birds, such as bald eagles, herons, egrets and osprey.

The Corps became involved with the project in 1994 through an interagency team that included the Maryland Port Administration and federal and Maryland environmental resource agencies, such as the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, said Wesley Coleman,

coastal chief, Planning Division.

“Though the cost is higher than some other options for the dredged material, re-establishing habitat in the bay made the cost well worth it,” he said.

Without dredging, the Baltimore harbor and channels would not stay deep enough to support commercial shipping.

The dredged material currently being used is coming from the Brewerton Channel Eastern Extension, a project to widen that channel to improve the efficiency of the port of Baltimore harbor and channel system.

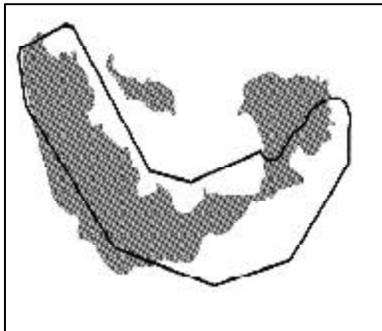
The next project to provide dredged material will be the Tolchester S-turn project. The Tolchester project is the straightening of an S-turn that has caused ships to run aground in the past.

The project will be completed in 10-14 years, depending on the inflow rate of the dredged material.

For more information on the project, visit the district site at <http://www.nab.usace.army.mil/projects/Maryland/poplar-brief.htm>.



The remnants of Poplar Island as viewed from the air in 1999.



Planned shape after completion overlaid on 1847 island shape.

Boredom — a serious problem

by Chanel S. Weaver
Public Affairs Office

Everyone knows that history was changed when the Declaration of Independence was signed 225 years ago, but many people do not know that history was again altered 16 years ago when July was declared Anti-Boredom Month.

Excessive boredom is becoming a major concern on both the national and international level. In fact, there is an organization in New Jersey called the *Boring Institute*, which devotes its entire energies to researching the effects that boredom has on individuals.

The Boring Institute reports that the designation of July as “Anti-Boredom Month” resulted from the growing need to “call attention to the life-threatening aspects of boredom.”

When a person comments that he or she is “bored to death,” that individual may not be too far from the truth.

“What we know is that boredom kills,” said Ron Ferguson, editorial columnist for *The Scotland Herald*. “You can literally be bored to death.”

What Ferguson and countless other people around the world are starting to realize is that boredom is a serious problem, and it causes many complications.

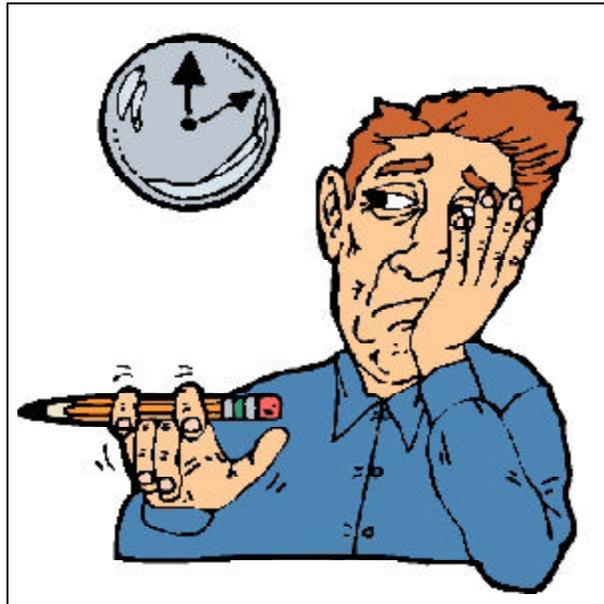
While it may be true that everyone gets bored, the severity of boredom varies from case to case. Alan Caruba, founder of the Boring Institute, said that when

boredom is severe, it is “tied to depression, the decision to drop out of school (and) crime.”

One of the leading contributors of depression in people is boredom. According to the Boring Institute, there are approximately 10 million Americans suffering from depression.

“Of the signs most frequently listed as indicators of depression, boredom is almost always neglected,” the institute reported.

Caruba acknowledged that the practice of overlooking boredom



as a source of depression could be very dangerous, because excessive boredom can ultimately lead to suicide, the ninth leading cause of death in America.

Surprisingly, one of the most common places where boredom lurks is in the workforce. Employers hire employees with the expectation that the employee will keep busy, but even the workplace can be a place of dullness.

Even though some people may

have tons of work to do, if they are not interested in the subject matter, boredom can easily creep in.

In an article entitled, *Boredom's Victims*, Caruba wrote, “Boredom is a significant factor in the loss of job productivity, which is estimated to cost the economy \$25 billion annually.”

But money is not the only thing that boredom causes to be lost. Many people suffer a great loss of health when excessive boredom strikes their lives.

Boredom is often attributed as the cause of many eating disorders.

“Extended boredom can make individuals vulnerable to disease conditions,” Caruba said.

Many remedies have been prescribed to combat excessive boredom, but some believe the most peaceful remedy for boredom is work. However, the work must be stimulating for the mind. Otherwise, work itself becomes boring.

The Boring Institute has published a book entitled *Beating Boredom*, which offers 10 basic guidelines to help people overcome boredom. It also contains 70 ideas of what people can do to relieve boredom.

So the next time a person says to you that he or she is “bored to death,” take it seriously. The statement may not be an exaggeration.

Visit <http://www.boringinstitute.com> for more information.

Baltimore employees volunteer for 'Habitat'

Story by Lucy Lather

Photos by Jim Turkel

The sounds of hammers pounding, saws buzzing and a few grunts and groans filled the air when Baltimore District employees joined the Chesapeake Habitat for Humanity construction team June 2 to work on three houses in Baltimore.

Spearheaded by Real Estate Division's Carol Shutt, the project attracted employees from all divisions and offices as they joined forces to work on the houses that were in various stages of construction by the Chesapeake branch of the international organization.

"I actually like to volunteer for such things as Habitat for Humanity, but I'm always leery about doing it by myself," said Terri Dockery, Contracting Division. "But when I heard that a group of Corps employees was going, it was the perfect opportunity for me to finally donate my time, without being scared to actually show up in a strange situation."

Baltimore District became involved primarily because of Shutt's enthusiasm.

"I've been volunteering at Habitat for about one year," she said. "I encouraged some of my co-workers to join me on a project, and they thought it would make a great volunteer effort for the entire District."

So someone took the idea to



Mike Johnson, RE, measures a piece of molding for the porch roof. Carol Shutt assisted Johnson in this all-day project.

Jim Turkel, Real Estate Division chief, and his response was just as enthusiastic as that of Shutt and the others.

"I had been looking for some type of volunteer work that the District could get involved in, so when I heard about this project, I mentioned it to the colonel who agreed wholeheartedly," said Turkel.

These houses, as well as several already completed during the past four years, are in the Waverly community of Baltimore. Chesapeake Habitat for Humanity owns the properties under renovation and sells them to a qualified homeowner when completed.

"The completed houses on that block were beautiful, and the house I was working in was just as nice," said Dockery. "It does wonders for communities to have an organization that is willing to come in and help them improve their living conditions.

"I just hope the people who take ownership of these renovated houses realize how lucky they are to be given the chance to own a house that has been refurbished, such as the ones through the Habitat for Humanity program," Dockery added.

Millard Fuller, who founded Habitat for Humanity International in 1978, devised the concept of building simple, decent houses for the poor to help eliminate vacant, boarded-up properties and give people a chance to better themselves. Chesapeake Habitat for Humanity was incorporated in 1982 and became the first urban affiliate project of the international organization.

Families who purchase the homes are considered partners; they are required to assist in the project before and after they move into their homes. There are three main criteria for future

homeowners in Chesapeake Habitat for Humanity's homeownership program:

- Put in 300 sweat equity hours (to be accomplished by the homeowner or members of the household who are 14 years or older),

- Have a real need for adequate housing, and

- Have a take-home income that is between 25 percent and 50 percent of the median income established by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for Baltimore City.

The houses are interest-free with mortgages running from 10 to 30 years.

"The full time employees of the Chesapeake Habitat for Humanity are great," Dockery said.

"They are very friendly and have so much patience in dealing with volunteers, homeowners and all the inexperienced construction people who mean well, but sometimes cause more work for them in the long run with mistakes."

Employees and family members who participated were: Carol Shutt, Greg Barnes, Norbert Suter, Terri Dockery, Dennis Powers, Angela Dockery, Emily Zajano, Robert Pace, Reginald Epps, Lucy Lather, Chuck Fiala, Bryan Fiala, Kevin Fiala, Michael Cornish Sr., Jim Turkel, Jim Jones and Mike Johnson Sr. Several friends of employees also helped.



Greg Barnes, RE, and a helper remove trash from the work site.



Jim Jones and Col. Charles Fiala construct a concrete block barrier for the front yard of one of the houses.



After painting a bathroom all morning, Terri Dockery takes a lunch break.



A friend of one Corps employee saws wood for interior framing of one of the houses. This house had been gutted and Corps employees and their friends framed the downstairs in preparation for the installation of the wallboard by the next crew.



Jim Turkel replaces molding in the laundry room.



Congressman Cummings tours Baltimore Harbor

Baltimore District Engineer Col. Charles J. Fiala, Jr., explains an important point to U. S. Congressman Elijah Cummings, Maryland's 7th District representative. Claire O'Neill is the project manager for the Anchorages project.

Cummings requested a tour of the Port of Baltimore to learn more about the Baltimore Harbor Anchorages and Channels, Brewerton Channel Eastern Extension, and Tolchester S-Turn projects. The congressman used this opportunity to become more familiar with the Port of Baltimore activities in preparation for upcoming events on Capitol Hill. The Maryland Port Administration offered their vessel, the Mary Lynn, for the June 1 tour.

Fort Meade dedicates inhouse-designed DSS admin facility

During a special dedication ceremony June 22, elected officials and members of the Fort Meade community and the Army Corps of Engineers gathered to celebrate the official opening of the new Defense Security Service Administration Facility at Fort Meade, Md.

Designed in-house by Baltimore District, this 80,000 square foot, two-story facility will

provide office and administrative space, computer areas, a photo lab and needed storage areas to support the agency's Investigations Control and Automated Directorate.

Authorized as part of the Base Realignment and Closure 1995 Program, the new facility was built by the small business firm of C.E.R., Inc., of Baltimore, Md., at a cost of \$12 million.

"From design to construction, this project has been a team effort all the way," said Scott Drumheller, Corps of Engineers project manager.

DSS conducts personnel security investigations on individual's planning to enter the military, access classified information or hold a sensitive position within the Department of Defense.

Name the squirrel

The gray safety squirrel mascot has been a Baltimore District "fixture" for about six years. The squirrel attends the annual picnics and other special events of the District, but has never been given a name. Both men and women have been the squirrel, so even a gender has not been established.

Some folks think it's time the safety squirrel was provided with a moniker, so put on your thinking caps and enter the "Name the Squirrel" contest, sponsored

by the Employee Activities Association.

Submit your suggested name, along with **your** name, office and phone number to the Public Affairs Office, Room 9200, or e-mail to Darlene.Mancini@usace.army.mil. No phone calls, please. Retirees may enter the contest, too. EAA will provide a prize to the winner.

Deadline for the contest is July 31; judging will be in August and announced in the September issue of the *Constellation*.



District's golf tourney attracts many

Fort Meade's Applewood Golf Course was the site of Baltimore District's 25th Annual Golf Tournament on June 1. There were 33 teams of 129 golfers in four flights.

Winners in each flight were: "A," **John Lamont, Joe Putusky, Keight Lamont, Warren Hendricks**; "B," **Rick Boyer, Dennis Powers, Jeff Reneer, Jerry Wessel**; "C," **Jeff Wiggin, Kevin Mainquist, Ron Bowers, Alan Robinette**; "D," **Howard**

Lohorn, Buddy Constantine, Bill Sills, Rich Sealover.

Winners in the "closest-to-the-pin" category were: Jackpot, Hole # **10, Mark Wohlfort**; Hole # 2, **Col. Fiala**; Hole # 8, **Rick Whitten**; Hole # 16, **John Trotter.**

Other special event winners were: Straightest Drive, Hole # 9, **B.J. Racz**; Women's Long Drive, Hole # 4, **Rosie Trotter**; Men's Long Drive, Hole # 17, **Dave Hand.**

Project manager talks to students about Corps' work on memorial

On May 30, Jon Sadler, project manager for the Korean War Memorial, spent the day at his son's elementary school talking about the building of the memorial to six fourth and fifth grade classes.

Sadler's computer presentation featured photographs of the memorial during the construction phase as well as the creation of the statuary. He explained to the students how many different crafts were involved in the construction—engineers, artists, architects, etc. At the conclusion of the presentation, Sadler

verbally quizzed the students using the *Who Wants to be a Millionaire* TV game show format to reinforce the high points of the presentation.

The following day the Glynden, Md., Sacred Heart School students sent thank you notes to Sadler and included personal comments about the value of the presentation and how much they looked forward to visiting the memorial now.

"It was a most rewarding day and made me very proud to work for the Corps of Engineers," Sadler said.

Fitness center to host 4th of July special

Are you looking for a fast way to shed those extra pounds you gained over the 4th of July holiday? Are you anxious to get in shape just in time for that trip to the beach? Have you always wanted to join a gym but never found the money?

Well, the FEDS



Fitness Center is the place for you. Beginning July 2-13, the center will conduct a 4th of July special and waive the sign-up fee for all new members. That's a \$30 savings.

So, stop by the FEDS Fitness Center and start your journey to fitness now.

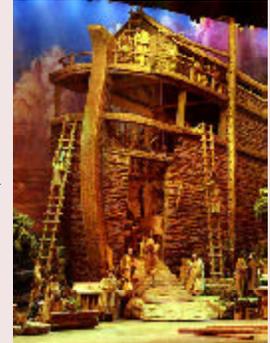
News you can use

EAA

Don't miss the chance to see *Noah, the Musical* when the Employees Activities Association sponsors a bus trip to the Sight & Sound Millennium Theatre in Lancaster, Pa., on Aug. 18.

Cost is \$100 and includes the bus trip, show and dinner at an "all-you-can eat" farm restaurant.

A \$25 per person deposit is required. Contact Paula Schultz at 410-962-4000 for reservations.



ROAR

ROAR, or Resumix Online Applicant Response, is a new tool for Northeast Region job applicants to keep track of the status of their self-nominations.

Visit <http://cpolrhp.army.mil/ner/index.html>. Click on Tools and then ROAR to access this new tool.

Army Benefits Center

The hard copy form TSP-1 may be used through the end of the current open season, which will run through July 31.

Changes may still be made through the Interactive Voice Response System, or IVRS, at 1-877-276-9287.

The TSP-1 form is available from the Human Resources Office, Room 10230-C.



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Official Business



Happy
Fourth
of
July